**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.      (Currently Amended)  A computer readable storage medium for storing an electronic data record of an invoice, the electronic data record comprising:

a state data field corresponding to the invoice, the state data field including:

an identification of a current state of ~~the~~ a processing of the invoice, ~~wherein:~~ the current state [[is]] being assigned by a user through a dialogue displayed on a display device;

~~the data field is used for starting a workflow which depends on the current state;~~

~~the data field has~~ a first link to a description table comprising identifications of a plurality of possible states of the invoice during the processing of the invoice and corresponding descriptions of the plurality of possible states; ~~and~~

~~the data field has~~ a second link to an instruction table comprising the identifications of the plurality of possible states and corresponding instructions automatically ~~executable~~ executed by a computer, the instructions comprising a workflow automatically initiated by the computer;

a third link to an event table comprising the identifications of the plurality of possible states and corresponding events which can occur during the processing of the invoice; and

a fourth link to a proposal table comprising the identifications of the plurality of possible states and corresponding proposed actions for changing the corresponding states; and

a comment data field corresponding to the invoice, the comment data field comprising comments entered by the user through the dialogue.

2-5.    (Canceled).

6.    (Currently Amended)  The computer readable storage medium for storing the electronic data record of claim 1, wherein the electronic data record is at least partially accessible via the Internet and wherein ~~the content of~~ the state data field or [[a]] the comment data field is editable via the Internet.

7.    (Canceled).

8.    (Currently Amended)  A computer-implemented method for processing an electronic data record of an invoice, ~~the electronic data record comprising a data field including an identification of a current state of the processing of the invoice,~~ the method comprising:

displaying a dialogue on a display device for enabling a user to assign a ~~the~~ current state of a processing of the invoice ~~to be entered by a user;~~

storing, using a processor, an identification of ~~assigning~~ the current state of the invoice ~~entered by the user to the~~ in a state data field corresponding to the invoice in the electronic data record, ~~wherein~~ the state data field ~~has~~ includes:

a first link to a description table comprising identifications of a plurality of possible states of the invoice during the processing of the invoice and corresponding descriptions of the plurality of possible states~~, and the data field has~~;

a second link to an instruction table comprising the identifications of the plurality of possible states and corresponding instructions automatically ~~executable~~ executed by a computer, the instructions comprising a workflow automatically initiated by the computer;

a third link to an event table comprising the identifications of the plurality of possible states and corresponding events which can occur during the processing of the invoice; and

a fourth link to a proposal table comprising the identifications of the plurality of possible states and corresponding proposed actions for changing the corresponding states; and

storing comments entered by the user through the dialogue in a comment data field corresponding to the invoice in the electronic data record ~~starting a workflow which depends on the current state~~.

9.    (Canceled).

10.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 8, further comprising:

performing at least one of selecting, sorting, evaluating, and analyzing the

invoice according to the current state.


11.     (Canceled).


12.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 8, wherein the current state

is selectable by the user according to predefinable events.


13.     (Currently Amended)  The method of claim 8, wherein the method is for

use in business software, particularly in an or enterprise resource planning software.


14.     (Currently Amended)  A computer system for processing an electronic

data record of an invoice, the electronic data record comprising a data field including an

identification of a current state of the processing of the invoice, the computer system

comprising:

memory including program instructions;

input means for entering data;

storage means for storing data;

a processor responsive to the program instructions for displaying a dialogue for

enabling the a user to assign a current state of a processing of the invoice to be entered

by a user;

program instructions for ~~assigning~~ storing an identification of the current state ~~entered by the user through a dialogue displayed on a display device to the~~ of the invoice in a state data field corresponding to the invoice in the electronic data record, ~~wherein~~ the state data field ~~has~~ includes:

a first link to a description table comprising identifications of a plurality of possible states of the invoice during the processing of the invoice and corresponding descriptions of the plurality of possible states~~, and the data field has~~;

a second link to an instructions table comprising the identifications of the plurality of possible states and corresponding instructions automatically ~~executable~~ executed by the computer system, the instructions comprising a workflow automatically initiated by the computer system;

a third link to an event table comprising the identifications of the plurality of possible states and corresponding events which can occur during the processing of the invoice; and

a fourth link to a proposal table comprising the identifications of the plurality of possible states and corresponding proposed actions for changing the corresponding states; and

program instructions for storing comments entered by the user through the dialogue in a comment data field corresponding to the invoice in the electronic data record ~~starting a workflow which depends on the current state~~.


15.    (Canceled).

16.    (Previously Presented)  The computer system of claim 14, further comprising program instructions for performing at least one of selecting, sorting, evaluating, and analyzing the invoice according to the current state.


17.    (Canceled).


18.    (Previously Presented)  The computer system of claim 14, wherein the current state is selectable by the user according to predefinable events.


19.    (Currently Amended)  The computer system of claim 14, wherein the computer system is for use with business software, particularly with an or enterprise resource planning software.


20.    (Currently Amended)  A computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions for processing an electronic data record of an invoice, the electronic data record comprising a data field including an identification of a current state of the processing of the invoice, the computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions for:

displaying a dialogue on a display device for enabling a user to assign a the current state of a processing of the invoice to be entered by a user;

storing, using a processor, an identification of ~~assigning~~ the current state of the

invoice ~~entered by the user to the~~ in a state data field corresponding to the invoice in the

electronic data record, ~~wherein~~ the state data field ~~has~~ including:

a first link to a description table comprising identifications of a plurality of

possible states of the invoice during the processing of the invoice and corresponding

descriptions of the plurality of possible states~~, and the data field has~~;

a second link to an instruction table comprising the identifications of the

plurality of possible states and corresponding instructions automatically ~~executable~~

executed by a computer, the instructions comprising a workflow automatically initiated

by the computer;

a third link to an event table comprising the identifications of the plurality of

possible states and corresponding events which can occur during the processing of the

invoice; and

a fourth link to a proposal table comprising the identifications of the

plurality of possible states and corresponding proposed actions for changing the

corresponding states; and

storing comments entered by the user through the dialogue in a comment data

field corresponding to the invoice in the electronic data record ~~starting a workflow which~~

~~depends on the current state~~.


21.    (Canceled).

22.    (Previously Presented)  The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, further comprising instructions for:

performing at least one of selecting, sorting, evaluating, and analyzing the invoice according to the current state.

23.    (Canceled).

24.    (Previously Presented)  The computer-readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the current state is selectable by the user according to predefinable events.

25.    (Previously Presented)  The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the computer-readable medium comprises enterprise resource planning software.

26-27.      (Canceled).

28.    (Currently Amended)  An electronic data structure for an electronic data record according to any one of claims 1 and [[5-7]] 6.

29.    (Original)  An electronic data structure according to claim 28, wherein the electronic data structure is for use with enterprise resource planning software.